

MAPLE GROVE TRANSIT COMMISSION
City of Maple Grove
Meeting of November 27, 2012

MINUTES

Members Present:, Terry Coss, Jaime Renner, Teri Anderson, Jeremy Miller, Mandy Knudsen, and Mark Davison.

Members Absent: Jodi Carman Kortsha.

Also Present: Mike Opatz - City of Maple Grove, Doyne Parson-Metro Transit, and Colleen Swann - Metro Transit, and Bill Patten-Midwest Paratransit.

Call to Order

Transit Commission Chair Terry Coss called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Open Forum

No one from the public spoke during the open forum.

Approve Minutes

The Commission approved the meeting minutes from November 27, 2012.

Discussion of Routes and Statistics

Opatz reviewed the monthly ridership summaries for September and October 2012 and the most recent daily ridership reports. In October 2012, ridership was 80,510, which is a record high for monthly ridership. The previous record was 76,308 in October 2008. For the year, ridership is up four percent over 2011

The Commissioner's had the following reports:

- Jodi Carman Kortsha - Absent.
- Terry Coss – The new coach buses with the wider aisles are being noticed by the riders as I have heard positive feedback about them. Driver did a great job in handling a young rider causing a disruption on the bus when the rider got on the wrong bus.
- Teri Anderson – All is good.
- Jaime Renner – No issues to report other than Route 785 p.m. trip #5 on occasion still has high ridership.
- Mark Davison – No issues to report. Operations are going smoothly.

- Mandy Knudsen – Ridership is building on the Route 780. Some riders are placing their bags and other personal items on the seat next to them and not moving them. The Route 766 driver yelled and the Route 780 driver in downtown Minneapolis for being in the wrong lane on 3rd Street and 1st Avenue.
- Jeremy Miller – The GoTo scanners are still occasionally not working. All else is fine on the Route 782.

.Update on Phase 2 of Parkway Station

Opatz reported that the City has begun the design of Phase 2 for Parkway Station. The project is being designed to provide approximately 210 park-and-ride stalls on a single elevated parking deck over the existing parking lot. These expansion stalls would cover about ½ of the existing surface parking area. A 3rd phase to complete rest of the decked stalls would be planned for a few more years in the future. As footings and foundations are in place, the construction period will be shortened by approximately 20%. Also included will be the necessary access/egress stairs and pedestrian connections to the existing passenger terminal. The City is in the process of applying for construction funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation. The City of Maple Grove is only applying for \$2,071,500 in Chapter 152 funds, which represent 52 percent of the total construction budget of \$3,950,000. The City of Maple Grove has arranged for a 48 percent local match using Metropolitan Council Regional Transit Capital (RTC) grant funds totaling \$1,878,500. The application packet is due December 21 and project selection should be in February 2013. Opatz distributed a draft site drawing showing that Phase 2 would likely on the west side of the property.

2012 Minnesota State Legislative Elections Results

The 2012 Minnesota State Legislative elections resulted in a DFL Party majority in the House of Representatives, Senate, and Governor's Office. This is the first time this has happened since 1990. Opatz discussed the potential impacts of a DFL controlled Legislature. One likely scenario is that several different transportation funding packages are likely to be introduced as bills. Some of these should included transit funding increases as well. However, it is not known if that would mean any increases to suburban transit programs. This past summer Governor Dayton formed a committee to look at long range transportation funding mechanisms to build a "world class transportation system" for Minnesota. Some of the funding options that may get a further look include:

- Vehicles registration
- Gas tax
- Increase in the dedicated Transit Sales tax from .25 percent to .75 percent
- Wheelage Tax
- MNPass Rate Increase and other tolling options

It is also possible that that transit governance could get some attention and those bills could have the potential to affect Maple Grove Transit and the other suburban transit programs.

Bus Layover Location in Downtown Minneapolis

Opatz reported that Maple Grove Transit and other Metro Transit express routes in recent weeks have been experiencing delays due to increasing traffic congestion and gridlock in the area of 11th Street & 3rd Avenue. The Maple Grove buses layover on 16th Street behind the Minneapolis Convention Center and have no choice but to travel through this intersection to get to the route starting point. Opatz reviewed the downtown layover map with the commission.

The affected time period is 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. The level of congestion and resulting delays varies from day-to-day. High levels of traffic come directly from I-35W and the Leamington Parking Ramp onto 3rd Avenue. Some bus drivers report being as late as 20 minutes. They sometimes have to wait through as many as five traffic light cycles before being able to move forward. The bus drivers are doing all they can. It is a very challenging situation with limited options to address the problem.

However, on Thursday November 15 a test run of a new layover location was conducted. The new layover location was on 7th Street right before Twin's Way. The one day test showed promising results and more testing will occur the week of November 26 before a final decision is made. This location is also a bike lane and could affect if we are allowed to keep this long term as a layover spot. The bus routing is from 7th Street to a right turn on Twins Way, left turn on 12th Street, and then a left turn on 2nd Avenue to the start of the route.

Metro Transit and Maple Grove Transit has brought this to the attention of the City of Minneapolis and are meeting with them on November 29 discuss the matter. Maple Grove Transit will continue to keep this situation a top priority as we work toward a solution.

Riding Tips and Reminders for Maple Grove Customers

Opatz said that over the past few weeks Transit Commission have had some discussions about reminding riders about various riding behavior and situations including:

- Cell phone use
- Use of perfumes
- Back packs hitting seated riders as commuters walk down the bus aisle
- Winter Season Riding Reminders

Opatz reviewed some past examples of rider flyers and information that Maple Grove Transit has disseminated in the past. The Commission discussed to what level and extent we try to set policies to cover a wide variety of these topics and future ones that have yet to be brought to our attention. Opatz said that we need be careful about setting rules to govern a few that will likely not follow them. Opatz also stated that he recently had some feedback that occasionally the Rider Flyers contain rules that treat riders like they are children and they were offended by that. However, we also need to some degree do what we can to ensure that our customers can comfortably and safely enjoy their commute. Opatz will draft a flyer to address these matters.

2013 Maple Grove Transit Budget

Opatz reviewed the Maple Grove Transit 2013 operating budget. The Maple Grove City Council adopted these documents at its November 5, 2012 meeting. This item was presented to the Transit Commission as an information item.

Adjourn / Next Meeting

- Next Scheduled Regular Meeting: January 29, 2013
- Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.
- Minutes submitted by Mike Opatz, Transit Administrator.